



# FACT SHEET

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

Created in 1982 through the Small Business Innovation Development Act, SBIR is designed to stimulate technology innovation by small businesses while providing the government with cost-effective technical and scientific solutions to challenging problems. SBIR also encourages small businesses to market SBIR technology in the private sector.

SBIR has four major objectives:

- Stimulate small business technology innovation
- Increase small business participation in meeting federal Research and Development (R&D) needs
- Increase the commercialization of technology developed through federal R&D
- Increase the participation of socially/economically disadvantaged small business concerns and the participation of small businesses that are at least 51% owned and controlled by women.

SBIR is a three-phased process. In Phase I, technology feasibility is determined, and contracts are valued to \$100,000 and last nine months. During Phase II, the necessary R&D is accomplished to produce a well-defined product/process, and contracts are limited to two years and \$750,000. The primary goal of Phase III is to commercialize the SBIR project. SBIR funds are not used.

Eleven federal agencies (including the Departments of Defense, Energy, Air Force, Army, Navy...) set aside a portion of their R&D budgets for SBIR contracts. Twice a year these eleven agencies identify various R&D topics for small business research. These topics are incorporated into agency solicitations and are distributed via the world

wide web (www) in both a pre-solicitation form (during which times small businesses are afforded the opportunity to discuss topics with experts) and in the final solicitation ([www.dtic.mil/dtic/sbir/](http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/sbir/))/([www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/](http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/)).

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